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ABSTRACT

This report examines trends in the well-being of Hawaii's families during the 1990s. Section 1 provides an overview of several demographic characteristics of Hawaii's families, including mean age at first marriage, percent of marriages involving spouses of different ethnicity, percent of families with more than two generations in household, divorce rate, family morale, and family aspirations for children. Sections 2 through 6 present trends in the following areas of well-being: (1) financial security, including percent of workforce working more than 40 hours, poverty rate, and housing affordability index; (2) health and safety, including adults participating in regular physical activity, adults with health insurance, children without adult supervision following school, adult chronic health conditions, and adults' substance use; (3) education and achievement, including school attendance, percent of youth with average or above reading scores, educational level, and school volunteers; (4) social conditions and community engagement, including perceptions of neighborhood safety, voting rates, tax allocation, adult attendance at religious services, and volunteerism; and (5) family relationships, including percent of families eating together most of the time, contact with extended family, family engagement in cultural practices, and family violence. For each characteristic presented, the relevant indicator is defined, the trend from 1990 to the late 1990s is described and presented graphically, and relevant

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county comparisons are made. The report concludes with information on data sources and technical notes. (KB)

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HAWAI'I FAMILY TOUCHSTONES

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Center on the Family

1999

HAWAI'I
FAMILY TOUCHSTONES

1999

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Honolulu, Hawai'i

2515 Campus Road, Miller Hall 103, Honolulu, HI 96822
Phone: (808) 956-4132, Fax: (808) 956-4147
Email: ta_cot@ctahr.hawaii.edu
Web site: www2.ctahr.hawaii.edu/family

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Advisory Council

Sharon Agnew
Dennis Arakaki
Laura Armstrong
J. Kuhio Asam
Stephanie Aveiro
John Bryant, Jr.
Linda Buck
Donna Faith Eldredge
Loretta Fuddy
Dennis Fujii
Roland Gella
Louise Ing
Arlene Iwano
Salvatore Lanzilotti
Suzanne Chun Oakland
Winston Sakurai
Ivalee Sinclair
Robert Springer
Kate Stanley
Myron Thompson
Murray Towell
Lily K. Yao

Data Team

Bank of Hawaii: Paul Brewbaker
Department of Education: Tom Gans
Department of Health: Lawrence Miike, Verna Leilani Kong, and Brian Horiuchi
Department of Human Services: Susan Chandler, Linda Chun, and Keith Nagai
Department of Labor: Lorraine H. Akiba and Reynaldo Domingo
Prudential Locations: Michael Slarz
Office of Elections: Dwayne D. Yoshina
Office of State Volunteer Services: Mary Y. Matayoshi

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INTRODUCTION

Throughout history and across cultures, people have recognized the significance of the family. Indeed, despite overwhelming changes in contemporary life, the family remains the foundation upon which we nurture children, foster the well-being of individuals, and build strong communities. As Jane Howard observed: "Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family: whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one."

Despite the importance of families, we know surprisingly little about them. Based on selected, relevant, and measurable indicators that could be tracked over time, the Center on the Family developed Family Touchstones to provide an overview of Hawai'i's families. It is this information that allows us to monitor the status of families in our state. Our work is the outgrowth of the 1992 Governor's Family Policy Academy whose knowledgeable members enlisted wide community support for the vision and framework of the present report.

We gratefully acknowledge the many individuals and agencies who contributed to the development of Family Touchstones and made this inaugural publication a reality. We are especially appreciative of the support from our sponsors who share our desire to improve the conditions in Hawai'i for all of her families.

Sylvia Yuen, *Director*
Center on the Family

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A SNAPSHOT OF HAWAI'I'S FAMILIES

All of Hawai'i's families shall have the opportunity to fulfill their lifelong aspirations, provide fully for their members, and contribute to the betterment of their community in a caring, secure, healthy, and prosperous environment.

Vision Statement

Many of Hawai'i's families show great promise in attaining our vision:

- 73% of families regularly share "quality time" doing fun things together
- 74% of families eat dinner together 5 - 7 times a week
- 75% of children are in contact with extended family members, such as grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins, at least once a week
- 66% of adults feel safe in their neighborhood
- 83% of people feel they can rely on others in their community for help
- 59% of people volunteer time to church, charity, or community groups
- 94% of adults are covered by health insurance
- 93% of school kids are in class on any given day
- 77% of families rate themselves today on the top half of the "ladder-of-life" (ratings of 6 to 10 where 10 is the highest score) and 87% are optimistic that they will be higher on the ladder 5 years from now

Other families have problems that require immediate attention:

- 52% of all divorces are to couples with children
- 38% of families formed with a first child consist of unmarried parents, and 8% consist of unmarried parents where the mothers are under 20 and do not have a high school diploma
- 2% of all children under school age are reported as victims of abuse and/or neglect, while half of the reports are legally confirmed (note: studies indicate less than half of instances of abuse are reported)
- 17% of adults are binge drinkers, while many others abuse other substances
- 30% of families identify financial issues as their greatest challenge
- 14% of people live in poverty
- 31% of students score below average on the reading portion of the Stanford Achievement Test, and the percentage of students scoring average or above has declined significantly since 1990
- 16% of adults over age 25 do not have a high school diploma
- 50% of eligible voters do not vote in gubernatorial elections, thus do not participate in the community political process

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PORTRAIT OF HAWAI'I'S FAMILIES

Families come in many constellations, each with its own strengths, weaknesses, and issues. Despite these differences, each family bears primary responsibility for providing what its members need to develop in healthy ways. The "family" is also the product of social forces within society. Families are challenged by new technologies, the organization of work, economic booms and depressions, and political events. These factors affect the shape and resources of families into the future. Without healthy families to perpetuate our traditions and values, our state will increasingly experience social ills that diminish the quality of life, the vitality of our communities, and our ability to raise responsible children capable of grappling with tomorrow's challenges.

What does the portrait of Hawai'i's families look like today compared with the 1950s or the beginning of this century? Household size has declined about 20% since 1900. Today, the average number of people in a Hawai'i home is three. There has been an increase in marriages between members of different ethnic groups, from 11.5% in 1912 to over 25% during the second half of the century. The number of dissolved marriages has increased dramatically since 1900 when the divorce rate was 0.3 per 1,000 residents. By 1950 the state had seen a sevenfold increase in divorces, and today the divorce rate is 12 times greater. The number of married women and mothers in the workforce has also increased in the last 50 years.

Although the portrait of the typical Hawai'i family may be changing, we still consider a happy family life and strong family–community ties to be among life's most important gifts. More than any other life goal, Hawai'i's parents want their children to have happy and rewarding marriages and families. Complementing this wish are parents' strong desires that their children give back to the community and work to correct social inequities. Hawai'i's citizens value both their own and others' families.

Barbara DeBaryshe
Associate Specialist
Center on the Family

Marcia Hartsock
Hawaii Kids Count Project Coordinator
Center on the Family

Ivette Rodriguez Stern
Family Touchstones Project Coordinator
Center on the Family

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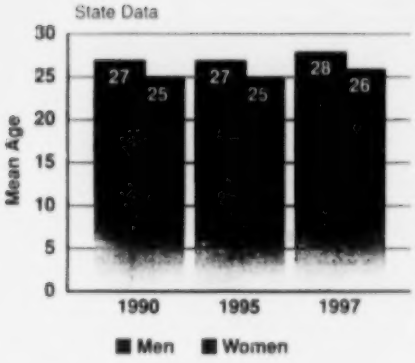
Mean age at first marriage

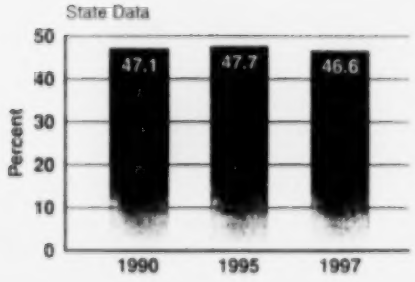


The indicator Delaying family formation past the teenage years, when greater maturity and an adequate education have been achieved, increases the chances for a healthy family life and financial stability. Men and women are marrying later than ever before. Educational attainment may be a possible explanation for the delay in marriage, especially for women. A greater acceptance of premarital cohabitation (as evidenced by a sevenfold increase in unmarried-couple households since 1970) may also be contributing to this delay. Average family size has been affected because early marriage, associated with having more children, is less common.

	1990		1995		1997	
County	M	W	M	W	M	W
O'ahu	**26**	**25**	**27**	**25**	**27**	**26**
Hawai'i	**28**	**25**	**29**	**26**	**29**	**26**
Kaua'i	**27**	**24**	**28**	**25**	**29**	**26**
Maui	**28**	**25**	**29**	**26**	**28**	**26**

Comparison The average age at which Hawai'i residents marry has shown little change between 1990 and 1997 for both men and women. In 1990 the national mean age at first marriage was very similar to Hawai'i's average, with men getting married at the average age of 26.9 and women at 25 years.

Percent of marriages involving bride and groom of different ethnicity



The indicator As might be expected in such a multicultural society, there is a high rate of interethnic marriages in Hawai'i. A majority of Hawai'i's residents are immigrants or descendants of immigrants. The labor migration of the later decades of the 19th century brought people from East Asia and Europe, while in the early decades of the 20th century people were recruited more often from Southeast Asia and North America. Cultural traditions and values are important to people, and individuals from different heritages who marry face different marital adjustments from those with more similar backgrounds. They can lead either to a blend of cultural beliefs or to conflicting values.

County	1990	1995	1997
O'ahu	**47.0**	**47.1**	**46.7**
Hawai'i	**50.3**	**53.7**	**50.7**
Kaua'i	**49.3**	**55.8**	**40.7**
Maui	**43.5**	**42.3**	**43.8**

Comparison The percent of marriages involving bride and groom of different ethnicity changed very little between 1990 and 1997. Hawai'i County has consistently shown the highest percentage of interethnic marriages during the period of study. While national data are not available regarding interethnic marriages, only 2.3% of those wed in the United States in 1997 were interracial couples. Over a quarter of the marriages in Hawai'i were interracial as well as interethnic.

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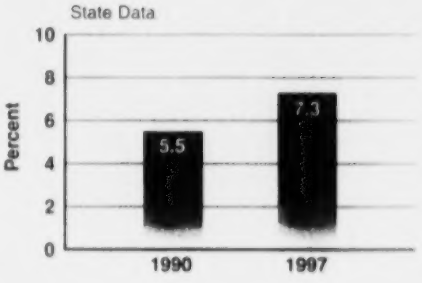
Percent of families with more than two generations in households

The indicator The percentage of families with more than two generations in one household is influenced by cultural values and personal decisions, economic cycles, and the increasing life expectancy of many senior citizens. In Hawai'i, the concept of 'ohana or family often includes extended family and non-related people. Living in a multiple generational household may encourage shared responsibilities and provide enriching opportunities for children to interact with grandparents and other extended family members. It may also operate in the other direction to increase tensions and feelings of lack of privacy. Those in the middle, the "sandwich generation," may be especially stressed when care must be given to the young and the elderly.

Comparison There was a 33% increase in families with more than two generations living in Hawai'i households from 1990 to 1997. This may be a result of the downturn in the state's economy. While the counties were very similar on this indicator in 1990, O'ahu exhibited the greatest increase and had the highest percentage by 1997.

County	1990	1995	1997
O'ahu	**5.7**	**N/A**	**8.4**
Hawai'i	**4.7**	**N/A**	**6.4**
Kaua'i	**5.8**	**N/A**	**6.8**
Maui	**5.6**	**N/A**	**6.7**

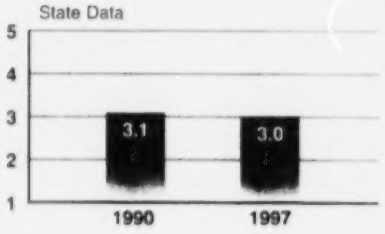


Average number of people in household

The indicator Households come in all shapes and sizes ranging from single individuals to roommates, cohabiting couples, and nuclear and extended families. Whom one lives with is influenced by many factors. There are many social and economic benefits of living with extended family members or friends. Overcrowded situations, however, can have harmful effects on family life if a healthy sense of personal space and privacy is compromised.

Comparison The average household size has remained relatively unchanged since 1990 at the county, state, and national levels. Hawai'i's average household size is slightly larger than the national average, perhaps due to multigenerational households (see indicator above on percent of families with more than two generations in household). Nationally, the average number of people per household was 2.6 in 1997.

County	1990	1995	1997
O'ahu	**3.2**	**N/A**	**3.1**
Hawai'i	**2.8**	**N/A**	**2.8**
Kaua'i	**3.1**	**N/A**	**3.1**
Maui	**3.1**	**N/A**	**3.1**



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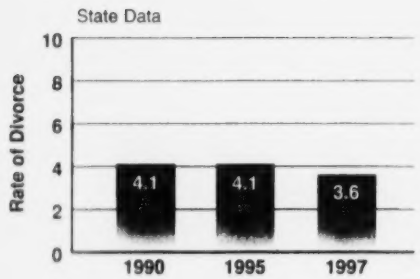
Rate of divorce and annulments per 1,000 residents

The indicator Marital disruption can take an emotional toll on family members, especially on children. Most children of divorced parents do well in the long run. However, there is evidence to suggest that children from divorced families are somewhat more likely to use alcohol and drugs, obtain less education, and experience marital disruption themselves. Divorces that involve a decline in parent-child relations and multiple divorces on the part of parents can increase the negative impact on children. Women and children usually suffer a decline in financial well-being following a divorce. This occurs because women (most often the custodial parents) typically earn less than men, the existing family income is spread over two households, and only one-third of child support orders are fulfilled. Marital disruption can move women and children from low-income families to below the poverty line. It is important to note, however, that divorce can also reflect healthy life choices, especially in emotionally and physically abusive situations that cannot be resolved.



County	1990	1995	1997
O'ahu	**4.1**	**4.2**	**3.6**
Hawai'i	**3.8**	**3.5**	**3.3**
Kaua'i	**4.0**	**3.9**	**3.5**
Maui	**3.9**	**4.4**	**4.0**

Comparison The divorce rate in Hawai'i dropped by 12.2% between 1990 and 1997. Except for the county of Maui, which had a slight increase during this period, all counties showed a decrease. National data were available only for 1996, when the divorce rate was 4.3 per 1,000 residents. The divorce rate in Hawai'i that year was slightly lower at 3.6.

Photo © Tami Dawson / Photo Resource Hawaii

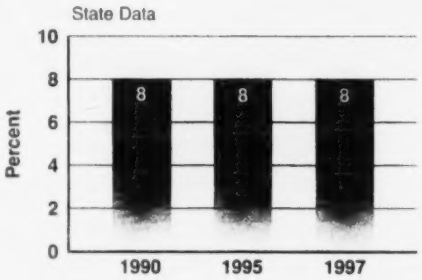
Percent of births with all three of the following risk factors:

- **first births to unmarried parents;**
- **first births to women under 20 years of age;**
- **first births to women without a high school diploma**

The indicator Families that are formed by first births to single parents, to young mothers, or to mothers with limited education often face long-term difficulties. The risk for poor outcomes is greatest when families are formed under all three circumstances. In those situations, families are vulnerable to experiencing continued poverty and dependence on public assistance. Single-parent households typically have limited financial resources. Only one-third of mother-headed families receive child support. When parenthood occurs before high school completion, the young parent is less likely to finish school, limiting job prospects and the ability to adequately support a family. Teen mothers spend more of their young adult years as single parents than do women who delay childbearing. Children in single-parent homes typically have lower grade point averages, lower college aspirations and, as adults, have higher rates of divorce.

Comparison At the state level, the percent of births affected by all three risk factors remained steady at 8% during the three time intervals examined. Hawai'i County showed the greatest increase between 1990 and 1997 and had the highest percentage of births affected by the three risk factors in 1997. Nationally, the percent of births affected by all three risk factors was 11% in 1990.

County	1990	1995	1997
O'ahu	**8**	**7**	**7**
Hawai'i	**10**	**17**	**15**
Kaua'i	**9**	**10**	**10**
Maui	**10**	**8**	**10**

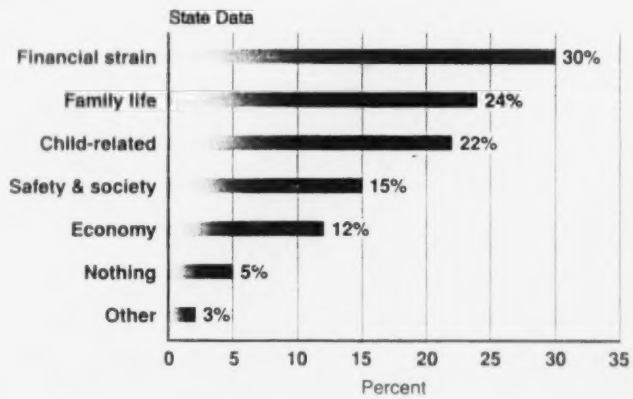


Greatest challenges facing families in Hawai'i

The indicator Families face a variety of challenges every day. Some of these challenges present opportunities for family members to grow stronger and come together as they work through the hardships. Many of these challenges, however, can impede family well-being if families are not adequately supported or equipped to overcome adversity. Identifying the greatest challenges facing Hawai'i's families may help us better support families and promote their well-being.

Comparison In these tough economic times, it is not surprising that 30% of adults surveyed identified financial issues such as family finances, the high cost of living, money for education, and job security as the greatest challenges facing their families. Issues related to the quality of family life such as not enough time with the family, keeping the family together, and family communication were identified by another 24% of adults as the greatest challenges facing families.

What is the greatest challenge facing your family today?



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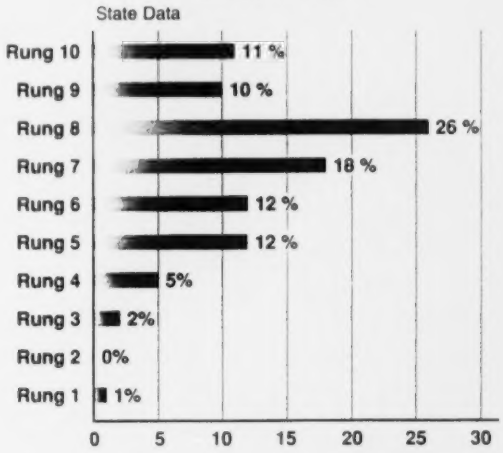
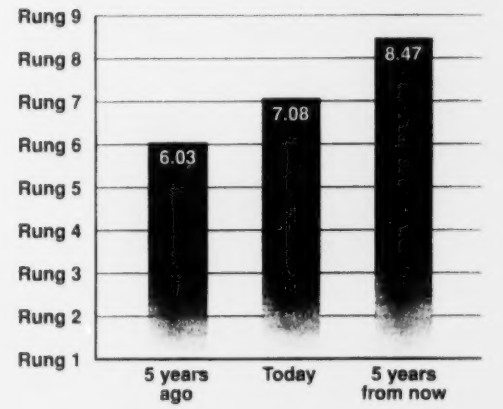
Self ratings by families

On which rung of the ladder is your family today?



On which rung of the ladder do you think your family was...is...will be...



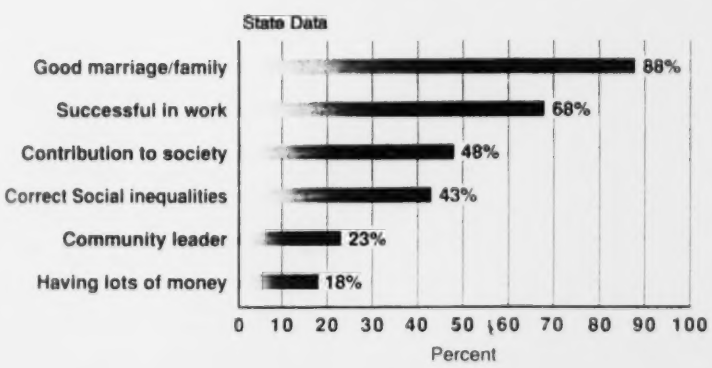
The indicator Where do families see themselves on the "ladder of life" where 10, the top rung, indicates the best possible life and one, the lowest rung, indicates the worst possible life? This indicator addresses a family's morale, the state of its spirit, satisfaction, and confidence. Unlike other measures of family well-being, the present data come from a direct question to families for a self-assessment.

Comparison More of Hawai'i's families place themselves on the top half of the ladder of life (77% on rungs 6-10) than on the bottom half (20% on rungs 1-5). Eleven percent rated themselves as having the best possible life (rung 10), while 1% thought they were experiencing the worst possible life (rung 1). The respondents had an optimistic outlook in the future for their families. The mean score for their families five years ago was 6.03, for the present, 7.08, and for five years from now, 8.47. These ratings indicate that they believe their family life has improved and will get even better with the passage of time.

Goals, wishes, and dreams for children

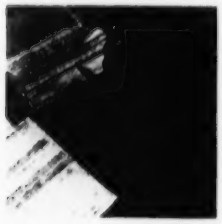
The indicator Few things are more important to parents than the goals and dreams they hold for their children. In communicating these goals, parents influence children's personal values and expectations for adult life. The support of others outside the family can be invaluable in helping parents ensure their children's success and well-being. Understanding what parents want for their children can help grandparents, aunts and uncles, neighbors, teachers, policymakers, and others to better support parents and their children.

How important is it that your children have ( ) as a life goal?



Comparison Among parents surveyed, the greatest number (88%) indicated that their children having a good marriage and family life is extremely important. Having their children achieve success at work was rated extremely important by 68% of parents. Nearly half responded it is important that their children contribute to society and that they work to correct social inequalities. A national survey of high school seniors showed similar results. Having a good marriage and family life and success at work were rated as most important by these American teens.

FINANCIAL SECURITY



Financial security is crucial to the well- being of Hawai'i's families. Financial security has many dimensions. Stable employment or prospects for steady business, among those who are self-employed, help secure income and allow families to plan for future needs that will lay claim on future income. Living costs determine how much of that income will be absorbed just "getting by." Beyond that, families need to build wealth to finance educational needs and retirement or to be prepared for medical expenses. Thus, financial security involves balancing income and living costs and being prepared for future needs.

By several measures, the financial security of Hawai'i families has been challenged by shifting economic trends. More women participate in the workplace than thirty years ago, reflecting both the benefits of increased opportunity and the burden of rising living costs. But during the 1990s, Hawai'i's poor economic performance has diminished opportunities for second jobs and part-time employment. This has raised average working hours of employed persons.

Similarly, Hawai'i's recession during the early 1990s caused the number of people living under federal poverty thresholds to increase. Economic recovery later in the decade has yet to contribute significantly to a reversal.

Housing looms large in the financial security of Hawai'i families, but while housing remains relatively expensive in Hawai'i, a soft real estate market has contributed to improved housing affordability. Since 1997, a decrease in Hawai'i's cost of living premium has accompanied Hawai'i's low inflation rate. Honolulu inflation is 2 percentage points below the national average in 1999. Meanwhile, dramatic changes to Hawai'i's retail industry have lowered prices and expanded the scope of merchandise offerings available to Hawai'i families.

Thus, while some changes have made financial security more challenging to Hawai'i families, some recent changes have contributed to improving families' secu

Paul H. Brewbaker
Vice President and Chief Economist
Bank of Hawaii

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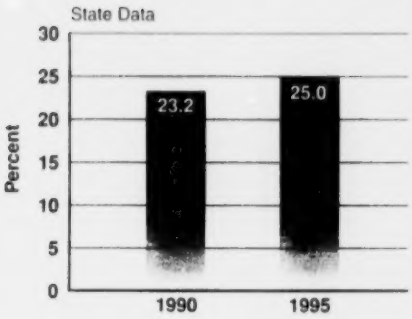
Percent of workforce working more than 40 hours



The indicator People are working harder and longer hours to make ends meet. According to a national study, the average number of paid and unpaid hours for full- to half-time workers increased from 43.6 in 1977 to 47.1 hours in 1997. The increased time demands placed on employees can result in reduced time with children and other family members.

Comparison The percent of Hawai'i's workforce working more than 40 hours per week increased by 7.8% between 1990 and 1995. In 1995, a quarter of the workforce worked more than 40 hours, the majority of these having worked more than 49 hours per week. Nationally, approximately 30% of the workforce worked more than 40 hours per week in 1990 and 31.5% in 1995. While Hawai'i remained below the national levels, the state mirrored the national trend toward a greater number of employees working more than the 40-hour week.

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Photo © Lane Dawson/Photo Resource Hawaii

Percent of families and people living below the federal poverty level

The indicator Living in poverty can have long-lasting negative consequences for children and families. Children raised in families at or near the poverty level are more likely to do poorly in school and to earn less and experience greater unemployment as adults. Early sexual activity and teen pregnancy are more common in poor than in non-poor teens. Lack of adequate nutrition and limited access to preventive and quality health care explain why poor families are more likely to experience poor health. Poor families also typically live in communities with higher rates of substance use and crime.

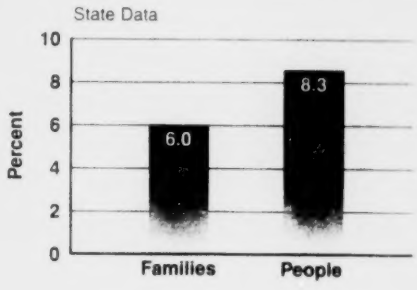
The federal poverty level estimates the pre-tax income needed for households of various sizes to meet basic living expenses, such as food, clothing, housing, and utilities. In 1997 the federal poverty level for a family of four was $16,400.

Comparison Nationally, the percent of people in poverty has remained stable since 1995 with 13.8% living below the federal poverty level that year, 13.7% in 1996, and 13.3% in 1997. Within that same period, the percent of people in Hawai'i living in poverty increased by over 40%. This translates to approximately 164,900 Hawai'i residents living in poverty by 1997, a number close to the population of Maui and Kaua'i counties combined. Because Hawai'i's cost of living is so high, these federal thresholds underestimate the true extent of poverty in the state.

Percent of People in Poverty

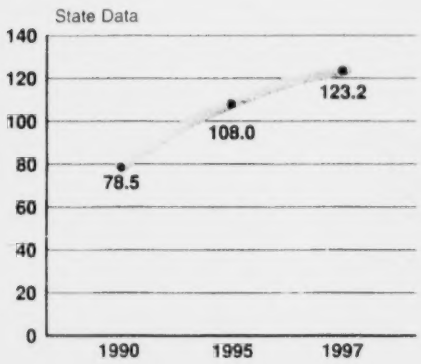
County	1989	1995	1997
State	**8.3**	**9.9**	**13.9**
O'ahu	**7.5**	**9.1**	**N/A**
Hawai'i	**14.2**	**15.5**	**N/A**
Kaua'i	**7.2**	**9.9**	**N/A**
Maui	**7.9**	**9.1**	**N/A**

Families and people in poverty: 1989



Housing Affordability Index

Housing Affordability Index



The indicator Owning their home is a dream for many families in Hawai'i. Affordable housing is important for family stability and financial security. It is also vital to healthy communities and local economies. During the late 1980s, the cost of housing in Hawai'i increased. During the 1990s, a sluggish local economy has driven the cost of housing downward. In addition, there have been a number of efforts to develop and offer residents affordable homes.

The Housing Affordability Index presented here measures the ability of a middle income family to pay the monthly mortgage for a single-family home or condo. An index of 100 indicates a balance between a middle income family's ability to make mortgage payments and the cost of a home. Higher indexes suggest housing is more affordable.

Comparison Housing has become steadily more affordable since 1990, when the Housing Affordability Index was 78.5. In 1995 the index was 108.0 and in 1997 it was 123.2. On the average, homes have similarly become more affordable throughout the nation, with some regional differences. However, housing prices in Hawaii remain among the highest in the nation.

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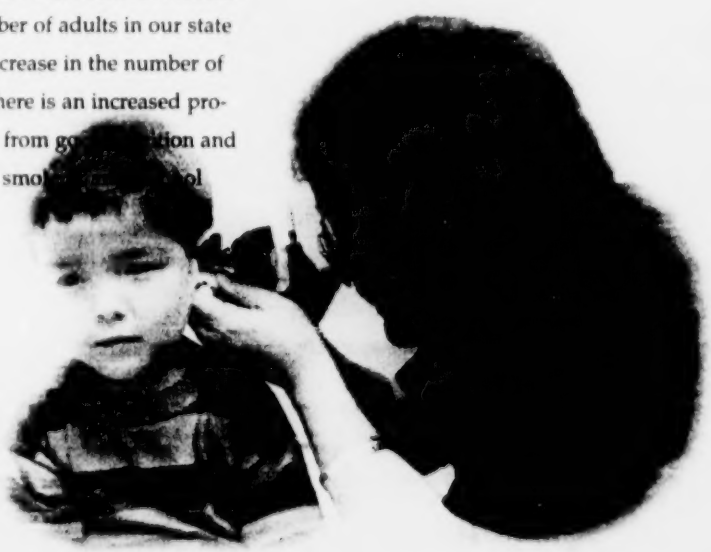
Photo © Canon USA

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Hawai'i is widely referred to as "The Health State." In fact, the State of Hawai'i has health and safety statistics in some areas that are among the best in the nation:

- High Rates of Health Insurance Coverage: The proportion of our population with health insurance is over 90%, which is much higher than the national average.
- Longevity: In Hawai'i, the average lifespan is 76 years for men and 82 years for women. This compares favorably to the national averages of 72 years for men and 79 years for women.
- Good Maternal and Child Health Statistics: Hawai'i's infant mortality rate of 5.5 per 1000 births is the seventh best in the nation and has already reached the Healthy People 2000 objectives.
- Low Rates of Violent Crime: Hawai'i ranks 39th among states for rate of violent crime. The 1996 Hawai'i rate was 281 as compared to the U.S. rate of 634 violent crimes per 100,000 population.

However, our community faces important challenges. There are differences in health status among different ethnic groups, with some groups having more prevalent chronic health problems (for example, Native Hawaiian and part-Hawaiian people). Also, unhealthy and risk-taking behaviors continue to be a problem among our state's youth: 21% of middle school students and 14% of high school students reported recently carrying weapons; 20% of middle school students and 29% of high school students reported recently smoking cigarettes; and 40% of high school students reported a history of sexual intercourse (Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 1997). The information contained in this section indicates a modest downward trend in the number of adults in our state who smoke cigarettes and indulge in binge drinking and an increase in the number of adults who participate in regular physical activity. However, there is an increased proportion of adults who report chronic diseases that may benefit from g[illegible]tion and improvements in lifestyle choices (more exercise, less cigarette smo[illegible]ol consumption).



Nancy L. Kuntz, M.D.
Former Family Health Services Division Chief
Hawai'i Department of Health

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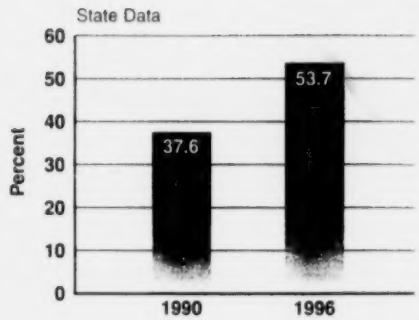
Percent of adult population participating in regular physical activity

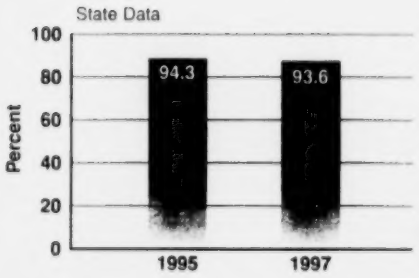


The indicator Regular physical activity refers to physical activity performed at least three times per week for at least 20 minutes each time. Its health benefits are well documented and include reduced risk for cardiovascular and other diseases, weight control, reduced impacts of chronic illness, and promotion of psychological well-being. Families that engage in regular physical activity are more likely to participate in healthy lifestyles, such as practicing good nutrition and avoiding substance abuse. These lifestyles tend to be passed on from one generation to the next.

County	1990	1995	1996
O'ahu	**38.3**	**N/A**	**51.8**
Hawai'i	**41.4**	**N/A**	**55.1**
Kaua'i	**49.5**	**N/A**	**59.8**
Maui	**24.1**	**N/A**	**56.4**

Comparison Between 1990 and 1996, there was a dramatic increase, nearly 43%, in the number of adults in Hawai'i who participated in regular physical activity. This positive trend was present for all counties, with Maui exhibiting the greatest improvement. Kaua'i had the highest percent of individuals participating in regular physical activity.

Percent of adults with health insurance coverage



The indicator Health insurance is important in ensuring that individuals and families have access to needed medical treatment. Without insurance, preventive care and medical treatment may be delayed until a condition becomes serious or life threatening. This inattention compounds the original problem, may disrupt employment, and increases eventual costs. Health crisis and major medical expenses are often the triggering mechanisms for families to enter public assistance programs.

County	1995	1997
O'ahu	**95.0**	**94.1**
Hawai'i	**92.3**	**91.7**
Kaua'i	**91.6**	**91.7**
Maui	**93.4**	**93.0**

Comparison The percent of adults with health insurance exhibited little change between 1995 and 1997. Each county saw a slight decrease in 1996, but by 1997 the percent of adults with health insurance neared the 1995 levels. Because health coverage is linked to employment and state-provided plans such as MedQuest, fluctuations in the economy may affect the number of people without insurance. Nevertheless, Hawai'i continues to have one of the highest health insurance coverage rates in the nation. Nationally, approximately 88% of adults are covered by health insurance.

Percent of children without adult supervision following school

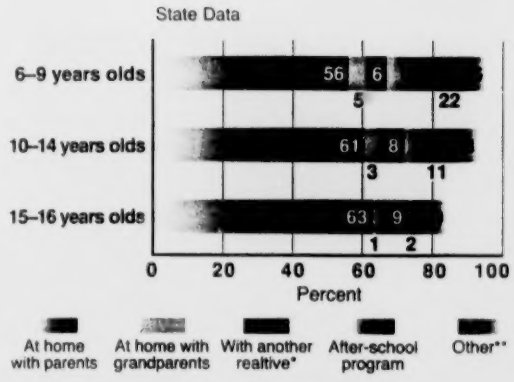
The indicator When children are alone without adult supervision, they are vulnerable to physical injury and risky behaviors. Depending on age, these may include activities such as playing with matches, watching inappropriate television programs, smoking, drinking, sexual intimacies, and delinquency. Hawai'i has one of the highest rates of working parents in the nation, and the after-school hours are often when children do not receive the care and guidance they require from adults.

Comparison Two percent of 6–9 year olds and 8% of 10–14 year olds are in self-care following school. Not surprisingly, this number increases to 13% with older teens. Over half of 6–9 year olds are in the care of parents and 22% attend after-school programs. The percentage of children in the care of parents increases with the older age groups, while the percentage in after-school programs drops.

Children in self-care

Age group	Percent
6–9 year olds	**2**
10–14 years olds	**8**
15–16 years olds	**13**

Where else are the children following school?



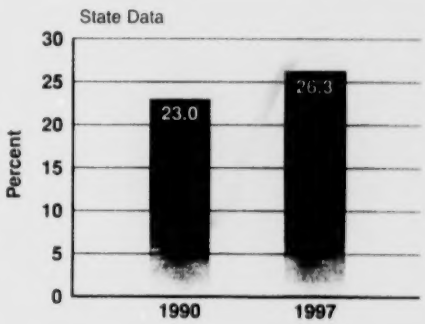
* Another relative includes adult as well as non-adult relatives.
** Other includes home-based child care, child care center, and other situations.

Percent of adults reporting chronic health conditions: Arthritis/rheumatism, asthma, diabetes, hypertension

The indicator Chronic health conditions are illnesses that are long-term in nature, do not resolve spontaneously, and are rarely completely cured. These conditions, which are more prevalent during the later years of life, often require a high level of medical care, support and assistance from others, and substantial medical expenses. Chronic conditions can create or add to family stress, require accommodations in daily living, and cause family members to miss school or work.

Comparison In Hawai'i, the percent of adults who reported having at least one of the chronic conditions assessed by the present indicator increased by 14% from 1990 to 1997. The Big Island had the largest increase, while Maui had a slight decrease during the same period.

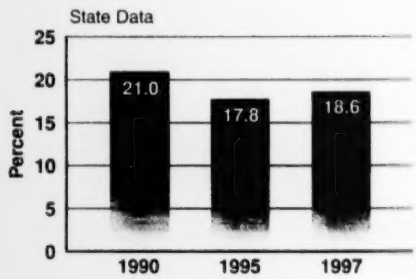
County	1990	1995	1997
O'ahu	**20.7**	**N/A**	**24.9**
Hawai'i	**23.1**	**N/A**	**28.5**
Kaua'i	**26.6**	**N/A**	**27.1**
Maui	**25.6**	**N/A**	**24.8**



Substance use among adults

Percent of adults who are cigarette smokers

Cigarette Smokers



The indicator Smoking-related illnesses such as cancer and heart disease are the most common causes of death in the U.S. Smoking-related illnesses cost the nation more than $100 billion each year in medical expenditures and indirect costs. Women who smoke during pregnancy can harm their developing babies.

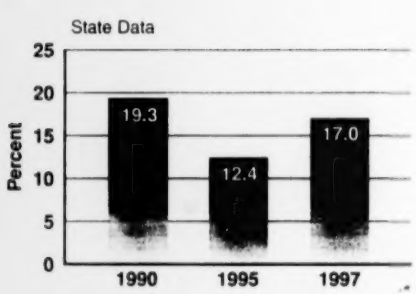
County	1990	1995	1997
O'ahu	**20.1**	**16.8**	**18.3**
Hawai'i	**22.6**	**21.1**	**18.0**
Kaua'i	**26.0**	**22.0**	**22.8**
Maui	**24.8**	**20.6**	**19.9**

Second-hand smoke from cigarettes can also have negative effects on children, affecting their health and increasing their risk for smoking.

Comparison There was a 15.2% drop from 1990 to 1995 in the number of adults in Hawai'i who reported smoking cigarettes, but the percent increased slightly in the following 2 years. O'ahu and Kaua'i counties followed the statewide pattern, while Maui and Hawai'i showed a continuing decrease in smokers between 1990 and 1997. Kaua'i had the highest rate of cigarette smokers. The percent of smokers in Hawai'i was well below the national average in 1995 and 1997. Nationally, 22.4% of adults reported smoking in 1995 and 23.2% in 1997.

Percent of adults reporting binge drinking

Binge Drinkers



The indicator Binge drinking is defined as having five or more drinks on the same occasion at least once in the past month. It can lead to heavier drinking and/or other forms of substance abuse.

County	1990	1995	1997
O'ahu	**18.1**	**12.7**	**15.2**
Hawai'i	**23.3**	**9.7**	**16.5**
Kaua'i	**25.7**	**15.1**	**14.8**
Maui	**23.6**	**10.8**	**20.0**

Besides its health effects, binge drinking is often the precursor of accidents, family violence, and harmful actions against others in the community.

Comparison The percent of adults in Hawai'i reporting binge drinking decreased from 1990 to 1995, but increased in 1997, although not to the 1990 level. The same pattern was observed in all counties, except Kaua'i. The Garden Isle had the highest rate of binge drinkers in 1990, but the lowest rate in the state in 1997. More men than women are binge drinkers both in Hawai'i and nationally.

EDUCATION AND ACHIEVEMENT

The annual Gallup Poll on education clearly shows that the people who know most about the schools are the ones most positive about them. The increase in volunteerism and the steady rate of average daily attendance are indicative of the level of support of parents for the education of their children. School volunteers create at least three positive effects: improved achievement for the individual child of the volunteers, extra help for overloaded teachers, and a positive impact on community perception of the schools.

The high school completion rate in the U.S. increased dramatically from under 50% in the 1940s to 85% in 1980 and has hovered at that level ever since. The completion rate for Hawai'i is slightly below the national average. States with large numbers of students of color, such as California with a rate of 79%, tend to have lower rates because the completion rates for students of color is relatively low. The high school completion rate in some states is as high as 96%, and these states have a clear advantage competing for businesses that require high levels of education and pay higher salaries.

The percentage of individuals completing bachelor's degrees should be increasing since, nationwide, the percentage of young people attending college has increased over the last several years. Unfortunately, enrollment in the University of Hawai'i system has dramatically declined in recent years. Clearly, if the quality of life for Hawai'i families is to improve, we must encourage more of our students to complete high school and college.

The downward trend in reading scores is alarming. Parent education programs and preschool programs must become more accessible, especially to low-income families. Class sizes in early grades must be small, and all parents must be encouraged to read with their children. The education of Hawai'i's children is a responsibility we all must share.

Randy Hitz
Dean, College of Education
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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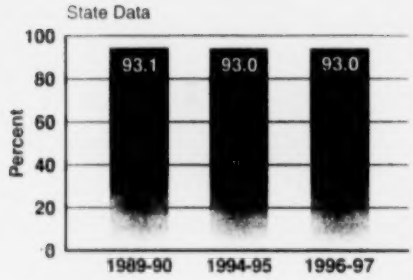
Average daily school attendance

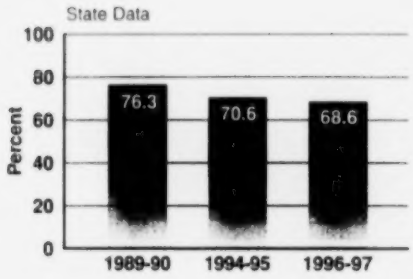


The indicator Strong families recognize the importance of regular school attendance for children's learning and academic success. They possess both the commitment and internal organization to make sure their children are awakened, fed, dressed, and ready for the start of the school day. Youth who do not attend school regularly are more likely to occupy their time with delinquent activity. They tend to do poorly in school and are more likely to drop out of school.

County	1989-90	1994-95	1996-97
O'ahu	**93.5**	**93.2**	**93.3**
Hawai'i	**91.3**	**91.6**	**92.0**
Kaua'i	**94.2**	**95.1**	**93.7**
Maui	**92.5**	**92.2**	**92.3**

Comparison Overall, attendance for all grades remained constant between 1990 and 1997. Hawai'i County exhibited a slight increase in attendance during this period and Kaua'i County had a minor decrease.

Percent of youth whose reading scores are average or above on the Stanford Achievement Test (SAT)



The indicator The ability to read is critical for academic success and lifelong learning. Poor readers are more likely to drop out of school, which limits their ability to secure well-paying jobs. While standardized tests are not the only way to assess learning, the widely known Stanford Achievement Test is used here as a measure of reading achievement.

County	1989-90	1994-95	1996-97
O'ahu	**76.0**	**71.1**	**68.8**
Hawai'i	**77.6**	**70.2**	**68.4**
Kaua'i	**77.4**	**71.0**	**68.5**
Maui	**76.1**	**67.5**	**67.4**

Comparison The percent of Hawai'i students scoring average or above on the reading SAT has declined significantly and steadily since 1990, with little variation between counties. Hawai'i scores are much lower than the national norm, which is 77% for the average and above level.

Educational level

The indicator Educational attainment can affect a person's ability to adequately support a family. There is growing concern that low wage workers are not able to keep their families safely above the poverty level. In 1997, the national average income for someone without a high school diploma was $16,124. That income did not increase significantly for those with a high school diploma whose income averaged $22,895. A bachelor's degree, on the other hand, appears to significantly increase a person's earning potential. The average income for a college graduate was $40,478.

Comparison Locally, the percent of adults who are high school graduates increased slightly between 1990 and 1997 to 83.7%. County data, which were available only for 1990, show that O'ahu had the highest percentage of high school graduates and Kaua'i the lowest. In 1997, Hawai'i did a little better than the rest of the nation. Nationally, 82.1% of adults reported completing high school. Statewide, the percent of adults who had a bachelor's degree or higher was just under the national average, which was 23.9% in 1997. O'ahu had the highest concentration of adults with at least a bachelor's degree and Kaua'i had the lowest.

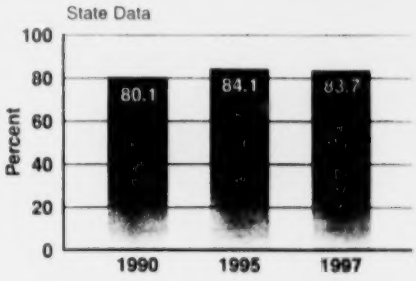
Percent of people 25 and over who are high school graduates

County	1990	1995	1997
O'ahu	**81.2**	**N/A**	**N/A**
Hawai'i	**77.7**	**N/A**	**N/A**
Kaua'i	**73.1**	**N/A**	**N/A**
Maui	**77.0**	**N/A**	**N/A**

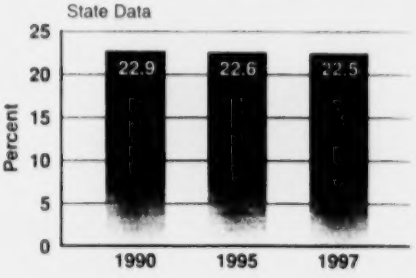
Percent of people 25 and over who have a bachelor's degree or higher

County	1990	1995	1997
O'ahu	**24.6**	**N/A**	**N/A**
Hawai'i	**18.5**	**N/A**	**N/A**
Kaua'i	**16.3**	**N/A**	**N/A**
Maui	**17.8**	**N/A**	**N/A**

High School Graduates



Bachelor's Degree or Higher



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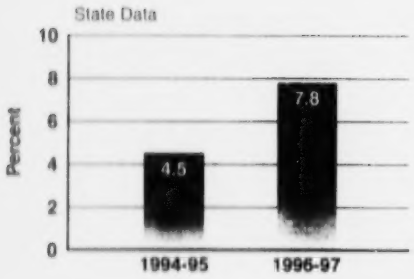
Rate of regular school volunteers per 100 students

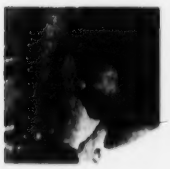


The indicator The contributions and involvement of adult volunteers in school activities are critical to a successful learning environment for students. Whether they are family of students or community members, school volunteers model the importance of giving back to the community. Adult volunteers also help build strong bonds between the school and community, increasing school resources. Family involvement in school activities has been shown to promote better educational outcomes for children and youth.

County	1989-90	1994-95	1996-97
O'ahu	**N/A**	**N/A**	**6.8**
Hawai'i	**N/A**	**N/A**	**4.0**
Kaua'i	**N/A**	**N/A**	**14.1**
Maui	**N/A**	**N/A**	**15.5**

Comparison Between 1995 and 1997 the statewide school volunteer rate nearly doubled. Maui and Kaua'i counties had the highest rate of regular school volunteers in 1997. Note that data are based on school reports and may reflect variability in reporting and duplication of volunteer counts.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Imagine a society without families. Difficult isn't it?

Families are the fundamental node of the intricate web of relationships that we call society. Yet because of our hectic schedules, we don't often take the time to think about and truly appreciate the role that families play as the building blocks of our community. From basic nurturing and subsistence to the transmission of the beliefs and values that bind us together as a society, families play a vital role in the well being of their members and the larger community.

Several years ago at the Aloha United Way, we started to question our assumptions about how best to achieve our vision of a more caring and compassionate society for all. We are very familiar with what happens when things don't work:

- when families don't have the capacity to provide the support, nurturing, and guidance that we all need;
- when, in turn, individual family members are unable to lead productive and fulfilling lives; and
- when neither the desire nor the skills for civic leadership arise.

Many of the programs supported by the community through charitable giving and tax dollars are geared to address the negative results that stem from these situations. We are not as clear on how best to act on the idea that strengthening families can lead to the prevention of many of these social ills. There are many wonderful experiments in our community that start with the belief that in the long term individuals will thrive in an environment where families are supported and community is strong.

Part of the challenge is that experiments to strengthen families cannot be effective if they are judged by the criteria that we apply to current programs. Categorical programs operate best and are most highly rewarded when they can clearly and narrowly define a specific target group. While families share in common their fundamental role in society, they are increasingly diverse in their composition and often elude a clear categorical definition.

All we can really prescribe today is that every family has strengths that can be identified, and any strategy that works must begin by building on these strengths. The indicators in this section are an attempt to quantify some of the kinds of behaviors that reflect the strengths that we might build upon to help strengthen families and strengthen communities at the same time.

Irving Lauber
President
Aloha United Way

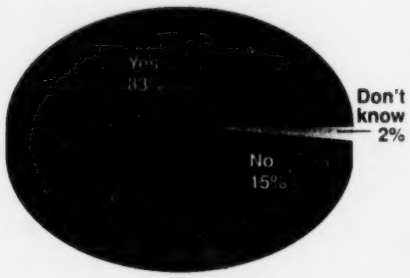
Photo © Tami Dawson / Photo Resource Hawaii

Percent of adults who feel they can rely on another person in their community for help

The indicator When people need help, they generally turn first to their families. Having someone outside of the family in time of need extends the circle of support. This promotes a sense of security and feelings of reciprocity, which build social networks and contribute to the health of a community. Families without a support system tend to be isolated and more vulnerable when problems occur.

Comparison In a survey of Hawai'i residents, 83% of adults said they can rely on another person in their community, outside their family, for help in time of need. That number was higher for neighbor island residents, where 90% indicated they can rely on another person for help.

State Data



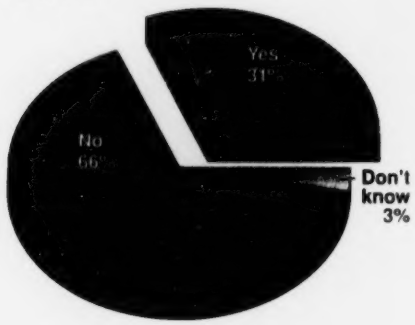
Is there someone in your community, outside of your family, that you feel you can rely on in time of need?

Percent of adults who feel safe in their neighborhood

The indicator The perception of a safe neighborhood affects a family's daily behavior: whether children are allowed out to play, the activities undertaken and when by family members in areas near the home, and the spirit of "aloha" that is extended to others in the community. Families in Hawai'i value and want their children to grow up in safe and caring communities.

Comparison When asked if there is an area near their home where they would be afraid to walk alone at night, 66% of Hawai'i residents surveyed said no, indicating they feel safe in their neighborhoods. However, 31% reported they did not feel safe in their neighborhoods. The perceptions of people in Hawai'i and on the U.S. mainland are similar, with slightly more of the former feeling safe. In a recent national survey that asked the same question, 61% of adults responded no, indicating they feel safe in their neighborhoods.

State Data



Is there an area near where you live, that you are afraid to walk alone at night?

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Percent of eligible voters who voted in gubernatorial elections

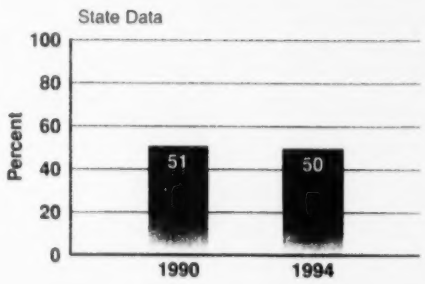
The indicator Voting is one of the most important rights available to citizens in a democratic society. Exercising the right to vote is an expression of civic commitment and a sign of a healthy society. When parents vote and participate in improving the conditions of their community and state, they teach their children to be good citizens and ensure a better quality of life for future generations.

Comparison The percent of eligible voters, resident citizens 18 years and older, who voted in the 1990 and 1994 gubernatorial elections in Hawai'i decreased slightly. The comparable county data are not available. However, the percent of registered voters who cast their ballots for the same elections also decreased statewide as it did on the Big Island and Maui. The percentage remained the same for O'ahu and increased slightly for Kaua'i. Hawai'i's voter turnout remains well above national levels. In the 1994 Federal election only 38.8% of the national voting-age population voted.

Percent of registered voters who voted in gubernatorial elections

County	1990	1994
State	**78**	**77**
O'ahu	**77**	**77**
Hawai'i	**80**	**77**
Kaua'i	**80**	**81**
Maui	**80**	**76**

Eligible Voters Voting

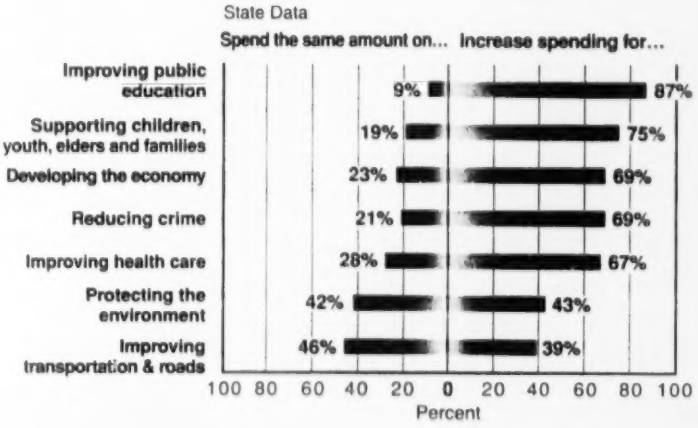


Funding priorities

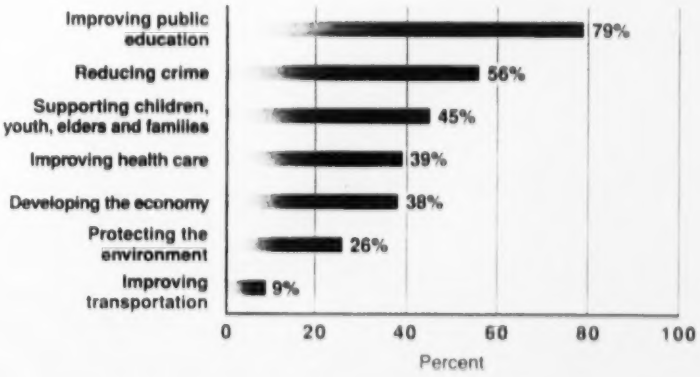
The indicator How money is used is a good indicator of one's values. Identical sums can be used in different communities to achieve different results. How would Hawai'i's families like their tax dollars to be used? Given the state's stagnant economy over the past decade and the difficulty in meeting the many requests for funds, knowing the priorities of Hawai'i's families can guide the policy and budget decisions made by policymakers.

Comparison In a survey of Hawai'i's families, the top two areas for increased state funding were improving public education (87%) and supporting children, youth, elders, and families (75%). Both of these are "family-related" issues. Among the seven categories where funds could be expended, the top three priorities for families were improving public education, reducing crime, and supporting children, youth, elders, and families. Improving transportation received the lowest priority rating.

If you were making up the state budget this year would you...spend the same amount... increase spending for...



Of these, which do you consider your top three priorities?



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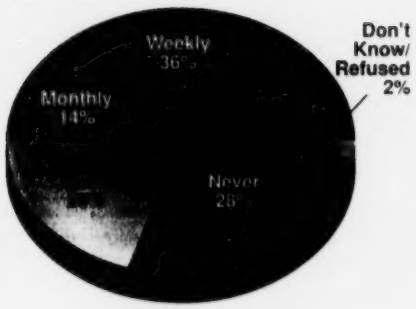
Percent of adults who regularly attend religious services

The indicator Research has shown that one of the qualities shared by strong families is the belief in a greater good or power in life. Religious faith assists families to cope with, rather than be devastated by, the stresses and crisis of life. It aids in recovery from serious illness, promotes emotional tranquility, and protects against psychological isolation. It is important to note that attendance at religious service is not synonymous with spirituality and self reports of religious activities tend to be higher than actual behaviors. Nevertheless, the present indicator provides good estimates for a quality that is important but difficult to assess.

Comparison Thirty-six percent of Hawai'i residents surveyed said they attended religious services weekly and 14% reported they attended at least monthly. Weekly attendance at religious services is higher in Hawai'i than nationally. In a national survey, 25% of Americans indicated they attended religious services weekly, while 22% said they attended monthly.

State Data



On average, how often do you attend religious services?

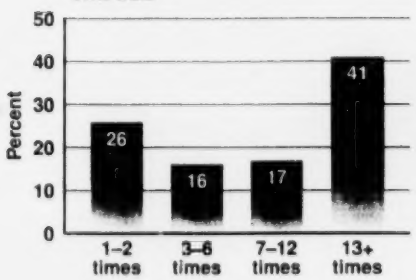
Percent of adults who volunteer their time to church, charity, or community groups

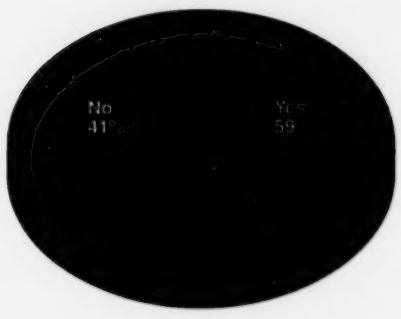
The indicator When families volunteer time to church, charity, or community groups, it is evidence that they are engaged in civic life and contributing to its vitality. Volunteerism also provides opportunities for parents to model qualities such as social responsibility that they wish to instill in children. As Ralph Waldo Emerson once observed: "It is one of the beautiful compensations of this life that no one can sincerely try to help another without helping himself."

Comparison Among the Hawai'i residents surveyed, 59% indicated they volunteer time to church, charity, or community groups. This is slightly higher than the 55% rate that was reported in a national survey. Forty-one percent of Hawai'i volunteers contributed their time 13 or more times per year. Many of Hawai'i's families contribute to charities in other ways. A recent study conducted by the Hawai'i Community Foundation found that 88% of households in Hawai'i contribute financially to charitable organizations, with nearly half of these households also giving goods and time in addition to their money.

How many times per year have you done any volunteer work for a church, charity or community group?

State Data





In the past year, have you done any volunteer work for any church, charity, or community group?

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

The quality of family life in Hawai'i is reflected in the interactions and relationships of family members. Members of strong families are committed and supportive. They promote each other's welfare and happiness. They spend time doing things together – eating, working, and playing together. They communicate and express appreciation and affection. They share values and beliefs. And they are able to cope with stress in constructive, as opposed to destructive, ways. Thus, family relationships are an important measure of family strength and wellness.

This section of Family Touchstones focuses on measurable indicators of family interactions and relationships that may be interpreted in terms of family strength, well-being, and quality of life. Members of families in Hawai'i were surveyed on how often they eat meals together, how often they spend time together doing fun things, how often children are in contact with members of the extended family (grandparents, aunts/uncles, etc.), and how regularly they engage in cultural practices or traditions. Finally, data on family violence (such as child or elder abuse and neglect) in Hawai'i are indicative of how families deal and cope with stress and conflict.

This information about family relationships can help us see where Hawai'i's families are strong and healthy and where they may need some strengthening.

Dana H. Davidson, Ph.D.,
Professor of Family Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

John W. Engel, Ph.D.,
Professor of Family Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Photo © Tami Dawson / Photo Resource Hawaii

Percent of families eating together every day or most of the time

The indicator Eating together on a regular basis provides an opportunity for family communication. Family members can talk about their day at home, work, or school, share concerns and good news, and coordinate plans for upcoming days. Giving thanks at meal times reinforces spiritual beliefs. Regular meal times provide a sense of routine that is comforting for children. By listening to and contributing to family discussions, young children also gain and practice new language skills.

Comparison In a survey of Hawai'i residents, nearly half indicated their family eats together every night of the week. Another 26% said their family eats together 5 to 6 nights per week. The average number of nights Hawai'i families eat together is 5.2. In a national survey, adults with children under 18 years old were similarly asked how many nights per week their family eats dinner together at home. Thirty-seven percent said they eat dinner together at home every night, and 35% said they have dinner together 5 to 6 nights out of the week.

State Data

How many nights a week out of seven days does your family eat together?

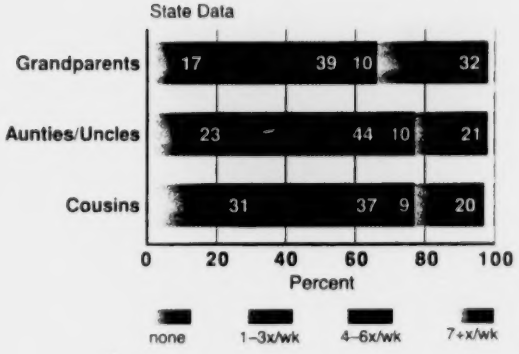
Number of times per week children are in contact with an extended family member

The indicator Grandparents, aunties, uncles, cousins, and other relatives expand children's social worlds. The extended family network provides love, guidance, role models, companionship, support, and a sense of identity for children. Extended family networks also provide support and companionship to parents. A strong family network can enhance parents' well-being and enable them to be more attentive and responsive to their children. Close extended family ties tend to be preserved across successive generations.

Comparison Thirty-nine percent of Hawai'i residents surveyed indicated their children see or talk to grandparents 1 to 3 times per week, 44% said their children are in contact with aunties and uncles 1 to 3 times per week, and 37% said their children are in contact with cousins that often. Hawaiian and Filipino children appear to have more frequent contact with extended family. Compared to the mean of 3.4 across all ethnicities, Hawaiian children see grandparents 4.4 times per week, and Filipino children 3.9 times per week. Hawaiian children see aunties and uncles an average of 4.8 times per week and Filipino children 3.3 times per week, while the average across ethnicities is 2.8.

State Data

How many times per week do your children see or talk to...



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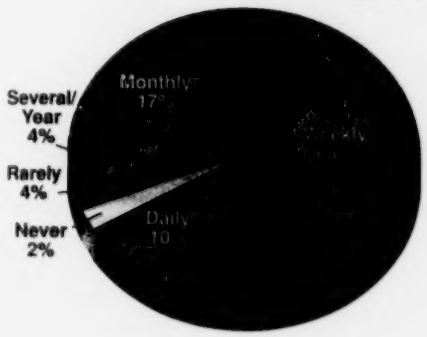
Percent of families regularly spending time together doing fun things

The indicator Shared "quality time" supports family members' health, learning, and sense of solidarity. Enjoyable leisure activities reduce stress and contribute to emotional and physical well-being. Strong families enjoy each other's company and shared leisure time reinforces positive family ties. Shared leisure activities provide opportunities to develop cultural, artistic, or athletic skills, depending on the kinds of activity a family pursues. When busy families have little time to spend together, this quality time may become even more precious.

Comparison Nearly three-quarters of Hawai'i residents surveyed said their family regularly spends time together doing fun things such as recreational activities, sports, going to the movies or going to cultural events. Ten percent reported engaging in such activities daily and 63% reported weekly family activities. Hawaiian and Caucasian families appear to engage in such family activities with greater regularity than other ethnic groups, with 79% of families in each group reporting spending time together doing fun things at least weekly.

How often does your family do fun things together like...?

State Data



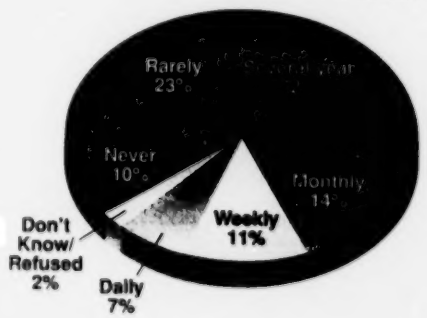
Percent of families regularly engaged in cultural practices

The indicator A clear and positive ethnic and cultural identity is an important component of psychological well-being, especially in today's multicultural society. A strong ethnic identity is associated with healthy self-esteem and resistance to negative stereotypes. Maintaining cultural traditions makes family members aware of their shared history and values. By preserving their traditions, families add to the richness and diversity of contemporary society and foster respect and appreciation for the cultural practices of others.

Comparison Eighteen percent of Hawai'i residents surveyed indicated their family regularly engages in cultural practices or activities of their family's heritage. Seven percent said they do so daily and another 11% said they do so on a weekly basis. Hawaiian and Filipino families appear to engage in cultural practices with greater regularity than other ethnic groups. Eight percent of Hawaiian families reported engaging in cultural activities daily and another 15% on a weekly basis. Eleven percent of Filipino families reported engaging in cultural activities daily and another 16% on a weekly basis.

How often does your family engage in cultural practices or activities of your family's heritage?

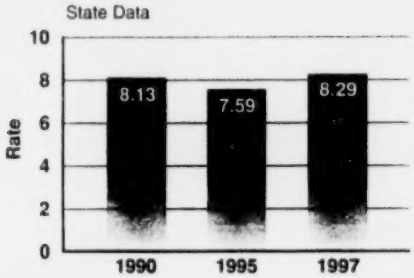
State Data



Family violence

The indicator In addition to the devastating short-term effects, family violence presents continued dangers to families and society by perpetuating cycles of intergenerational violence, substance abuse, and other criminal activity. Family violence primarily affects children, women, and the elderly. The elderly are especially vulnerable because of their social isolation. Unlike children who are required to attend school and therefore come into contact with outsiders, many elderly people live alone or interact primarily with family members, seeing few outsiders. This isolation can both increase the risk of maltreatment and make identification of that maltreatment more difficult. Victims of family violence and neglect often require lengthy and costly treatment to regain physical, emotional, and mental health. Domestic violence costs Americans approximately $100 billion per year in treatment and law enforcement costs.

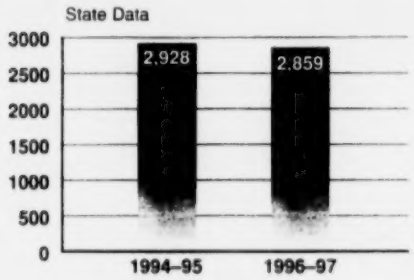
Child abuse and neglect per 1,000 children under 18



County	1990	1995	1997
O'ahu	**7.17**	**6.04**	**5.56**
Hawai'i	**4.49**	**13.10**	**20.40**
Kaua'i	**14.77**	**9.82**	**5.96**
Maui	**6.44**	**11.22**	**14.87**

Comparison The rate of confirmed child abuse and neglect cases decreased slightly between 1990 and 1995, and then increased again in 1997. At the county level, this rate increased significantly in Hawai'i and Maui counties, with Kaua'i seeing a notable decrease. Nationally, in 1996, approximately 970,000 children younger than 18 years of age were found to be victims of maltreatment, reflecting a rate of 15 victims per 1,000 children. National victim rates, however, are influenced by varying state laws relating to case classifications (see Technical Notes).

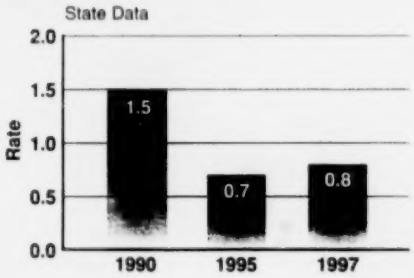
Number of protective orders



County	1994-95	1996-97
O'ahu	**1,658**	**1,590**
Hawai'i	**785**	**801**
Kaua'i	**95**	**99**
Maui	**390**	**369**

Between the 1994-95 and 1996-97 fiscal years, the number of protective orders filed in Family Court dropped slightly, with only very minor increases in Hawai'i and Kaua'i counties.

Elder abuse and neglect per 1,000 individuals 60 years and older



County	1990	1995	1997
O'ahu	**1.2**	**0.6**	**0.6**
Hawai'i	**4.0**	**1.6**	**1.6**
Kaua'i	**1.1**	**0.3**	**0.4**
Maui	**0.5**	**0.4**	**1.2**

The rate of confirmed elder abuse and neglect cases decreased by nearly a half between 1990 and 1997, with only the county of Maui exhibiting an increase.

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DATA SOURCES AND TECHNICAL NOTES

Indicator	Data sources and notes
Portrait of Hawai'i's Families	
Mean age at first marriage	Department of Health, Office of Health Status Monitoring, Vital Statistics. 1990 national data on mean age from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control, National Center for Health Statistics, Month Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 43, No. 12(S), 1995.
Percent of marriages involving bride and groom of different ethnicity	Department of Health, Office of Health Status Monitoring, Vital Statistics. Data based on bride's resident status, where ethnicity category was known and categories were different. National data from U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P20-509, Household and Family Characteristics: March 1997, and 1990 Census of Population, CP-3-6. CPS data subject to sampling error. National data reflect all interracial married couples with at least one spouse of White or Black race, including "White/other race" and "Black/other race" couples with "Other race" meaning "any race other than White or Black, such as American Indian, Japanese, Chinese, etc."
Percent of families with more than two generations in household	Department of Health, Office of Health Status Monitoring, Hawai'i Health Survey. Survey data are unweighted. 1990 data collected through household interview; 1997 data collected through telephone interview.
Average number of people per household	Department of Health, Office of Health Status Monitoring, Hawai'i Health Survey. Survey data are unweighted. 1990 data collected through household interview; 1997 data collected through telephone interview. National data from U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P20-509, Household and Family Characteristics: March 1997. Current Population Survey (CPS) data subject to sampling error.
Rate of divorce and annulments per 1,000 residents	Department of Health, Office of Health Status Monitoring, Vital Statistics. Rate of divorce and annulments represents the number of divorces and annulments of Hawai'i resident wives per 1,000 resident population. National rate from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control, National Center for Health Statistics, Month Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 45, No. 12.
Percent of births with all three risk factors	Department of Health, Office of Health Status Monitoring, Vital Statistics. Data represent the number of live first births with all 3 risk factors divided by the number of live first births. National comparison from The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Book, State Profiles of Child Well-being, 1993.
Greatest challenges facing families in Hawai'i	See Market Trends Pacific, Inc. Survey Methodology.
Goals, wishes, and dreams for children	See Market Trends Pacific, Inc. Survey Methodology. National survey data from The Roper Center, The Public Perspective, How Are We Doing? Leading Social Indicators Tell a Complex Story, Vol. 8, No. 6 (Primary source: Trends in the Well-Being of America's Children and Youth: 1995; prepared for the Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics by Child Trends, Inc., and by Donald J. Hernandez, U.S. Census Bureau).
Financial Security	
Percent of workforce working more than 40 hours	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Geographic Profile of Employment and Unemployment, Table 18. National study referred to here from The Families and Work Institute, The 1997 National Study of the Changing Workforce, 1998.
Percent of families and people living below the federal poverty level	1989 data from U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population, Social and Economic Characteristics; 1995 and 1997 data from March 1998, 1997, and 1996 Current Population Survey. CPS data based on small sample and subject to sampling variation.

Housing Affordability Index	Housing Affordability Index calculated by Bank of Hawaii, Economics Department. The index is based on statewide single-family and condominium mean sales prices.

Health and Safety

Percent of adult population participating in regular physical activity	Department of Health, Office of Health Status Monitoring, Behavioral Risk Factor Survey.
Percent of adults with health insurance	Department of Health, Office of Health Status Monitoring, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. The denominator excludes those who answered either "Don't know" or "Refused." Kaua'i County includes Kaua'i and Niihau; Maui County includes Maui, Molokai, and Lanai. National data from US Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.
Percent of children without adult supervision following school	Department of Health, Office of Health Status Monitoring, Hawai'i Health Survey, 1997. Survey data weighted. Totals may not sum to 100 due to rounding and exclusion of "Don't know" and "Refused" categories in charts.
Percent of adults reporting chronic health conditions: Arthritis/ rheumatism, asthma, diabetes, hypertension	Department of Health, Office of Health Status Monitoring, Hawai'i Health Survey. Survey data are unweighted. 1990 data collected through household interview; 1997 data collected through telephone interview.
Substance use among adults	Department of Health, Office of Health Status Monitoring, Behavioral Risk Factor Survey. National data on smokers from: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.

Education and Achievement

Average daily school attendance	Department of Education, Office of Evaluation and Planning, School Status and Improvement Reports. Local attendance data may be inconsistent. In many cases students are marked present for the entire day if they attend at least half of the school day. This is especially problematic at the high school level.
Percent of youth whose reading scores are average or above on the Stanford Achievement Test (SAT)	Department of Education, Office of Evaluation and Planning, School Status and Improvement Reports. National norms from Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, 1997 State of Hawai'i Data Book, Table 3.17.
Educational level	1990 data from U.S. Bureau of Census, 1990 Census of Population and Housing , Social, Economic, and Housing Characteristics; 1995 and 1997 data from U.S. Bureau of Census, Current Population Survey. CPS data based on small sample and subject to sampling variation.
Rate of regular school volunteers per 100 students	Office of the Governor, State Volunteer Services, Annual Survey of Volunteers in Hawai'i State Government. Regular volunteer defined as "any person engaged in specific voluntary service activities on an ongoing or continuous basis without receipt of any compensation, except meals, temporary lodging, transportation reimbursement, and mileage." Examples of school volunteers include board members, tutors, clerk typists.

Social Conditions & Community Engagement

Percent of adults who feel they can rely on another person in their community for help	See Market Trends Pacific, Inc. Survey Methodology.

Percent of adults who feel safe in their neighborhood	See Market Trends Pacific, Inc. Survey Methodology. National survey data from The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research. Survey conducted by the Gallup Organization for Cable News Network and U.S.A. Today, August 22, 1997 – August 25, 1997.
Percent of eligible voters who voted in gubernatorial elections	State of Hawai'i, Office of Elections, Election Registration and Turnout Statistics, Results of Votes Cast, 1959-Present; Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, 1997 State of Hawai'i Data Book and 1991 State of Hawai'i Data Book. For state data, eligible voters represents the population 18 years and over less nonresident armed forces and dependents, aliens, and other ineligible adult civilians. National data from Federal Election Commission.
Funding priorities	See Market Trends Pacific, Inc. Survey Methodology.
Percent of adults who regularly attend religious services	See Market Trends Pacific, Inc. Survey Methodology. National survey data from The Roper Center, The Public Perspective, How Are We Doing? Leading Social Indicators Tell a Complex Story, Vol. 8, No. 6. Survey conducted by the National Opinion Research Center, 1996.
Percent of adults who volunteer their time to church, charity or community groups	See Market Trends Pacific, Inc. Survey Methodology. National survey data from The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research. Survey conducted by ABC News and the Washington Post, April 21, 1997–April 24, 1997. Reference to other types of charitable contributions from the Hawai'i Community Foundation, Hawai'i's Charitable Giving, June 1999.

Family Relationships

Percent of families eating one meal together every day or most of the time	See Market Trends Pacific, Inc. Survey Methodology. National survey data from The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research. Survey conducted by the Gallup Organization for Cable News Network and U.S.A. Today, February 24, 1997 – February 26, 1997.
Number of times per week children are in contact with an extended family member	See Market Trends Pacific, Inc. Survey Methodology.
Percent of families regularly spending time together doing fun things	See Market Trends Pacific, Inc. Survey Methodology.
Percent of families regularly engaged in cultural practices	See Market Trends Pacific, Inc. Survey Methodology.
Family violence	State child abuse and neglect data from Department of Human Services Planning Office. Rate based on number of confirmed cases per 1,000 children under age 18. National data from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Child Maltreatment 1996: Reports From the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System, 1998. Varying state laws and policies relating to the classification of dispositions influence national victim rates. Some states classify an allegation as substantiated or unsubstantiated. Others include the third category of indicated, meaning there is sufficient reason to suspect child maltreatment or the risk of maltreatment, but the allegation cannot be substantiated to the level of evidence required by state law. States with the 2-category system show a rate of 13 per 1,000 children, compared to 21 per 1,000 in states with the 3-category system. Domestic violence protective orders data from the State of Hawai'i, The Judiciary, Annual Report 1994-95, and Annual Report 1996-97. Data for the City and County of Honolulu include the island of O'ahu and the settlement of Kalawao on Moloka'i. State elder abuse and neglect data from the Department of Human Services, Adult Community Care Services Branch. Rate based on number of confirmed cases per 1,000 individuals 60 years and over. Reference to cost of domestic violence from the National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse, in Center on the Family, Facts About Child Abuse.

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MARKET TRENDS PACIFIC, INC.

Survey Methodology This study was accomplished by conducting telephone interviews among 429 randomly selected households in the State of Hawai'i. All interviews were conducted with adult residents, 18 years of age or older. Respondents were qualified based on children (under 18) in household (i.e., must have at least one child residing in household). Interviewing began on January 2 and was completed on January 25, 1999.

Sampling The sample of households called was generated at random using random digit dialing. The total sample of 429 residents yields a maximum sampling error of +/-4.73%. Subsamples (e.g., county of residence) will yield higher margins of error.

Survey Instrument The survey instrument was designed by Market Trends Pacific, Inc. (MTP) in conjunction with the client. Interviews lasted an average of 13 minutes.

Fielding Questionnaires All interviews were completed in the MTP Calling Center using CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing). The Calling Center houses thirteen (13) CATI-equipped, electronically monitored workstations that allow for constant monitoring by a supervisor. This ensures the highest quality control and confidence in survey data.

All interviews were conducted between 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. on weeknights, and 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. on weekends. Interviews were also conducted during the daytime hours to ensure that the sample included residents who were unavailable during evening hours.

Data Processing Upon receipt of completed questionnaires, MTP edited, coded and entered all survey data. All data processing was performed using SPSSPC+, an in-house statistical software program. Cross-tabulation analyses of data believed to be important were performed (e.g., County, Household Size, etc.).

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